

## **CLARK GAME BIRD FARM**

Prepared by Region 3, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
June 1, 1999

### **PROPOSAL**

Aaron and Debbie Clark applied to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) on March 19, 1999 for a game bird farm license. FWP is the licensing agency for game bird farms. The game bird farm will be located in Section 13, Township 7 North, Range 1 East and Section 17, Township 7 North, Range 2 East. The proposal is for breeding, raising and selling live ring-necked pheasants and chukars.

### **MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA) PROCESS**

The proposal has been outlined in an Environmental Assessment (EA) by FWP to satisfy the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). FWP is required to assess the impacts to the human and natural environment. The EA was available for public comment from May 3 to May 25, 1999. A public notice of the draft EA was placed in the Townsend Star and the Helena Independent Record.

### **ISSUES RAISED IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

The checklist EA listed the issues. No major impacts are known to occur if the permit is issued. Some of the minor impacts listed in the EA included: disease transmission to adjacent wild birds; some noise and manure smells generated by the operation; profits generated by selling pheasants; and demands on government services to administer the game bird farm application process.

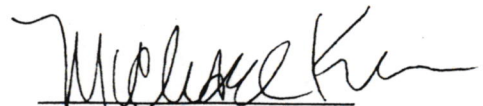
### **GENERAL SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were received concerning this game bird farm. Therefore, the draft EA was adopted as the final EA without any changes.

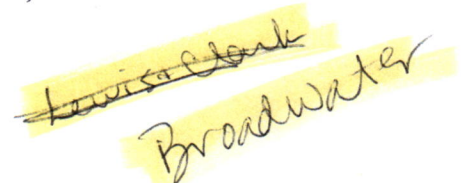
### **DECISION**

Utilizing the EA and public comment, a decision must be rendered by FWP which addresses the concerns and issues identified for this proposed game bird farm.

Based on the findings of the EA that established no known significant impacts, an EIS is not required and it is my decision to approve the permit for the Clark Game Bird Farm.



Michael Korn  
Helena Area Coordinator  
June 1, 1999



**Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks**

Helena Area Resource Office

930 Custer Avenue W

Helena, MT 59620

(406)444-4720

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST**

Fur Farm, Game Bird Farm, Zoo/Menagerie, Shooting Preserve

**PART 1. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION**

**Project Title:** Clark Game Bird Farm

**Application Date:** Received March 19, 1999

**Name, Address and Phone Number:** Aaron and Debbie Clark, P.O. Box 1274, Townsend, MT  
59644 266-3321

**Project Location:** Approximately 2.5 miles northwest of Townsend, T7N, R1E, NW 1/4 of Section  
13 and 2 miles northeast of Townsend, T7N, R2E, SE 1/4 of Section 17. Adjacent to the Canyon  
Ferry Wildlife Management Area (CFWMA).

**Description of Project:**

The Clark's are proposing a game bird farm near Townsend for the purpose of breeding, rearing, and selling live ring-necked pheasants and chukars. Breeding pens and a brood-rearing trailer would be located in the Clark's yard northeast of Townsend and would encompass less than 1 acre of land. Two 50' x 150' flight pens, constructed of posts, chicken wire sides and netting on top, would be constructed at the location northwest of Townsend. These pens would encompass about 0.34 acres of land.

The statute authorizing FWP's regulation of game bird farms is MCA 87-4-901 to 87-4-916.

**Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction:**

Montana Department of Livestock

*Broadwater*

## **PART 2. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.

| Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:            | Unknown | Potentially Significant | Minor | None | Can Be Mitigated | Comments Below Or On Attached Pages |
|---|---------|-------------------------|-------|------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources  |         |                         |       | X    |                  |                                     |
| 2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats                      |         |                         | X     |      |                  | 1.2                                 |
| 3. Introduction of new species into an area                         |         |                         | X     |      |                  | 1.3                                 |
| 4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality                             |         |                         |       | X    |                  | 1.4                                 |
| 5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater)  |         |                         |       | X    |                  |                                     |
| 6. Existing water right or reservation                              |         |                         |       | X    |                  |                                     |
| 7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture                     |         |                         |       | X    |                  |                                     |
| 8. Air quality or objectional odors                                 |         |                         | X     |      |                  | 1.8                                 |
| 9. Historical & archaeological sites                                |         |                         |       | X    |                  |                                     |
| 10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy |         |                         |       | X    |                  |                                     |
| 11. Aesthetics  |         |                         |       | X    |                  |                                     |

### **Comments**

(A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

- 1.2 There is potential for disease transmission from domestic pheasants to wild pheasants which are relatively abundant on the CFWMA. However, the game farm birds will be acquired from a source certified to be disease-free by the Department of Livestock. In addition, there are no case histories in Montana indicating disease transmission from pen-reared birds to wild birds.

There is limited potential for domestic pheasants escaping and breeding with resident wild pheasants, altering the gene pool. Construction methods used on the breeding and flight pens

make this a fairly remote possibility. Local FWP personnel will check the pen periodically to ensure it is maintained.

- 1.3 Ring-necked pheasants are present on the CFWMA. However, chukars are a new introduction to this area. The nearest population of chukars occurs in similar habitat on the Hahn Shooting Preserve 5 miles south of Townsend. As mentioned in 1.2, escape from the enclosure is highly unlikely and, consequently, a wild chukar population becoming established is also unlikely. In addition, no chukars from the Hahn shooting preserve have successfully reproduced in the wild.
- 1.4 The pens will be constructed in farmyard areas where existing vegetation has been removed or altered. The pens will impact a relatively small area.
- 1.8 The game bird farm may result in isolated manure smells and low-level noise (i.e. crowing roosters). The potential of this occurring depends on how the farm is operated, wind direction, etc. Manure smells and noise currently exists at both pen sites because of cattle operations. This activity does not appear to negatively impact any human residences in the vicinity of the sites.

Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment .

| Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:                               | Unknown | Potentially Significant | Minor | None | Can Be Mitigated | Comments Below Or On Attached Pages |
|--|---------|-------------------------|-------|------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Social structures and cultural diversity  |         |                         |       | X    |                  |                                     |
| 2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat |         |                         | X     |      |                  | 2.2                                 |
| 3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue  |         |                         |       | X    |                  |                                     |
| 4. Agricultural production   |         |                         | X     |      |                  | 2.4                                 |
| 5. Human health  |         |                         |       | X    |                  |                                     |
| 6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income                              |         |                         | X     |      |                  | 2.6                                 |
| 7. Access to & quality of recreational activities                                      |         |                         |       | X    |                  |                                     |
| 8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)                            |         |                         |       | X    |                  |                                     |
| 9. Distribution & density of population and housing                                    |         |                         |       | X    |                  |                                     |
| 10. Demands for government services  |         |                         | X     |      |                  | 2.10                                |
| 11. Industrial and/or commercial activity  |         |                         | X     |      |                  | 2.11                                |

### **Comments**

(A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided as comments.)

- 2.2 If disease transmission occurs between pen-reared birds and wild pheasants, the pheasant population on the CFWMA could be negatively impacted which , in turn, would negatively impact public hunting opportunities on the CFWMA.
- 2.4. The game bird farm will produce an annual crop of live pheasants and chukars intended to be sold.
- 2.6 Some profits may be generated through selling live pheasants and chukars.

2.10 The game bird farm application process requires an initial inspection and environmental analysis by FWP employees. Periodic follow-up inspections will be required of the local FWP game warden.

2.11 See comments 2.4 and 2.6.

**Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur?**

No.

**Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant?**

No.

**Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action when alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider. Include a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:**

No Action Alternative: No game bird farm would be started on this property. Land use would remain the same with no change in pheasant or chukar populations. There would be no risk of disease transmission, gene pool alteration, or an established wild chukar population. No additional profits would be generated and no additional demands would be placed on state government.

**List proposed mitigative measures (stipulations) for license:**

None.

**Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:**

Tom Carlsen, Bret Stansberry

EA prepared by: Bret Stansberry

Date Completed: April 14, 1999 ---

### **PART 3. DECISION**

#### **Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:**

Due to the lack of any significant impacts revealed by the EA, an EIS is not required.

#### **Describe public involvement, if any:**

A legal notice requesting public comment on this draft will be placed in The Townsend Star and the Helena Independent Record. The public comment period will run for 21 days commencing with publication. Comments can be sent to FWP, Attn: Tom Carlsen, Box 998, Townsend, MT 59644 (266-3367). The comment period will run from May 4, 1999 to May 25, 1999.

#### **Recommendation for license approval:**

---

**Wildlife Manager**

**Date**

---

**Warden Captain**

**Date**

**Clark Game Bird Farm**

The map shows a topographic representation of the Clark Game Bird Farm. Key features include:

- Topography:** Contour lines indicating elevation, with labels such as 3800, 3820, 3840, 3860, 3880, and 3900.
- Water Features:** Bedford Creek is shown on the left side of the map.
- Infrastructure:** A road or path runs diagonally from the top left towards the bottom center.
- Labels and Markers:**
  - 2 Flight Pens:** Located near Bedford Creek.
  - 3835T:** A specific point or area marker.
  - 3807T:** Another point or area marker.
  - 3801T:** A point or area marker.
  - 3806T:** A point or area marker.
  - 3807:** A point or area marker.
  - 3808:** A point or area marker.
  - 3809:** A point or area marker.
  - 3810:** A point or area marker.
  - 3811:** A point or area marker.
  - 3812:** A point or area marker.
  - 3813:** A point or area marker.
  - 3814:** A point or area marker.
  - 3815:** A point or area marker.
  - 3816:** A point or area marker.
  - 3817:** A point or area marker.
  - 3818:** A point or area marker.
  - 3819:** A point or area marker.
  - 3820:** A point or area marker.
  - 3821:** A point or area marker.
  - 3822:** A point or area marker.
  - 3823:** A point or area marker.
  - 3824:** A point or area marker.
  - 3825:** A point or area marker.
  - 3826:** A point or area marker.
  - 3827:** A point or area marker.
  - 3828:** A point or area marker.
  - 3829:** A point or area marker.
  - 3830:** A point or area marker.
  - 3831:** A point or area marker.
  - 3832:** A point or area marker.
  - 3833:** A point or area marker.
  - 3834:** A point or area marker.
  - 3835:** A point or area marker.
  - 3836:** A point or area marker.
  - 3837:** A point or area marker.
  - 3838:** A point or area marker.
  - 3839:** A point or area marker.
  - 3840:** A point or area marker.
  - 3841:** A point or area marker.
  - 3842:** A point or area marker.
  - 3843:** A point or area marker.
  - 3844:** A point or area marker.
  - 3845:** A point or area marker.
  - 3846:** A point or area marker.
  - 3847:** A point or area marker.
  - 3848:** A point or area marker.
  - 3849:** A point or area marker.
  - 3850:** A point or area marker.
  - 3851:** A point or area marker.
  - 3852:** A point or area marker.
  - 3853:** A point or area marker.
  - 3854:** A point or area marker.
  - 3855:** A point or area marker.
  - 3856:** A point or area marker.
  - 3857:** A point or area marker.
  - 3858:** A point or area marker.
  - 3859:** A point or area marker.
  - 3860:** A point or area marker.
  - 3861:** A point or area marker.
  - 3862:** A point or area marker.
  - 3863:** A point or area marker.
  - 3864:** A point or area marker.
  - 3865:** A point or area marker.
  - 3866:** A point or area marker.
  - 3867:** A point or area marker.
  - 3868:** A point or area marker.
  - 3869:** A point or area marker.
  - 3870:** A point or area marker.
  - 3871:** A point or area marker.
  - 3872:** A point or area marker.
  - 3873:** A point or area marker.
  - 3874:** A point or area marker.
  - 3875:** A point or area marker.
  - 3876:** A point or area marker.
  - 3877:** A point or area marker.
  - 3878:** A point or area marker.
  - 3879:** A point or area marker.
  - 3880:** A point or area marker.
  - 3881:** A point or area marker.
  - 3882:** A point or area marker.
  - 3883:** A point or area marker.
  - 3884:** A point or area marker.
  - 3885:** A point or area marker.
  - 3886:** A point or area marker.
  - 3887:** A point or area marker.
  - 3888:** A point or area marker.
  - 3889:** A point or area marker.
  - 3890:** A point or area marker.
  - 3891:** A point or area marker.
  - 3892:** A point or area marker.
  - 3893:** A point or area marker.
  - 3894:** A point or area marker.
  - 3895:** A point or area marker.
  - 3896:** A point or area marker.
  - 3897:** A point or area marker.
  - 3898:** A point or area marker.
  - 3899:** A point or area marker.
  - 3900:** A point or area marker.
- Other Labels:** "W.L. 3/4", "Campground", "Townsend", "Bedford Creek", "CANYON", "24", "20", "18", "17", "16", "15", "14", "13", "12", "11", "10", "9", "8", "7", "6", "5", "4", "3", "2", "1".

## Townsend

**2 Flight Pens**

## Bedford

Creek.

38357

15

W.L.3/4/

38CZD

કચ્છ

91-16

11

2010-01-01

### Breeding P

380/T

380

不器

२५

4201

38067

2038

6